

# MARBLE HILL PRESS.

VOL. XIII.

MARBLE HILL, BOLLINGER COUNTY, MISSOURI, THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1893.

NO. 6.

## PIERCE IS FREE.

### A Verdict Of "Not Guilty" Returned.

### IN SELF DEFENSE.

### The Attorneys Did Some Hard Work.

### PIERCE CRIED FOR JOY.

### His Son's Trial Set For July 11, Next.

### SHACKLEFORD AS JUDGE.

### A Good Jury.—An Able Judge.—Interest And Incidents Of The Trial.

**W**hen the jury find the defendant not guilty.

"So say you all gentlemen?" A dignified nod of twelve heads, and the great Pierce murder trial was ended.

That was the scene that several hundred people witnessed with absorbing interest in the circuit court room in Marble Hill at 4:30 o'clock last Saturday afternoon.

When Circuit Clerk Henry M. Smith was handed the verdict, as it came through Sheriff Wells from the foreman, everyone stood with bated breath awaiting the result of what has been perhaps the most interesting murder trial ever heard in this county.

The defendant sat with bowed head, and downcast eyes. He moved his hands about nervously. His attorney, Hon. Moses Whybark, stood beside him, vigorously chewing the end of an unlighted cigar, and listening eagerly for what was to come.

The clerk hesitated a moment, and then read in a clear tone the verdict.

No sooner had the words escaped his lips and been verbally indorsed by the jury than excitement reigned supreme. The prisoner nervously pounded the table a few times, and jumping to his feet with tears streaming down his cheeks he began shaking hands with the friends who crowded about to congratulate him. His counsel came in for a good share of the congratulation and as he continued to chew the end of his yet unlighted cigar, he looked the picture of happiness, and he had reason to, for he had won, with the assistance of Attorneys Smith and Morgan a great case.

The evidence was all in Friday evening and at 7 o'clock Saturday morning the argument began. Many ladies were present during the morning.

The argument was masterly. Every speech was a telling blow in favor of its side of the case. Prosecuting Attorney Caldwell

jury had returned to the room, a mad rush was made, and in a few minutes the room was crowded almost to suffocation. Judge Shackelford called order in the court room, and then called for the verdict.

**THE TRIAL.**  
At the March term of circuit court Judge Fox continued the Pierce case to a special term of court to be held June 5. It was impossible for him to be here, however, and Judge D. W. Shackelford of Booneville was invited to try the case. Court was called Monday afternoon and the sheriff instructed to find 100 men from which to select a jury. All day Tuesday and until about 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon were consumed in getting a jury. The following jury almost entirely from places north of here was selected:

G. H. Robinson, foreman; W. N. Nanney, M. F. Chostner, N. D. Cook, J. M. Sizess, A. F. Dockins, A. L. Whitener, J. H. Cheek, J. P. Limbaugh, David Brown, C. C. Limbaugh and Jefferson Limbaugh. The attorneys and the people generally expressed the opinion that it was perhaps, altogether the best jury that ever sat in a case of this kind in the county.

Judge Shackelford has a great deal of business about him when on the bench. The examination of witnesses, about 60 altogether was finished Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock. The lawyers were granted one hour each for their argument on Saturday morning. The evidence was taken in short hand, but the Press has been unable to get it in shape for publication. It is substantially the same as was printed in these columns when the inquest and the preliminary examination was held. The history of the case is well known to almost every person in the county, and our space will not permit a reprint of it.

Judge Shackelford left Saturday afternoon for Glen Allen, from which place he went to St. Louis, and thence to his home at Booneville, Mo.

Mr. Pierce left on the south bound train Sunday for Scott county on business. He is a member of the Masonic lodge at Laffin, and also a member of the Missionary Baptist church.

And thus the great case in which Taylor Pierce was charged with killing Henry Killian is closed. The editor has no opinion to express in the matter.

### Very Cheap Lots.

A deed was recorded Monday by which Robert Rogers sold to C. E. Vasterling an acre of land lying just north of Cobb & Lessley's livery stable on Main street in Lutesville. There are six whole lots in the tract, and it is very desirable property. The consideration was \$150. The price paid is extremely low, and Mr. Vasterling has reason to congratulate himself on the bargain. It is at the rate of fifty cents per front foot when it is certainly worth \$2 per foot.

### Fifteen Dollars Per Lot.

Judge N. M. Zimmerman sold three lots lying just west of the Presbyterian church to Treasurer Albert Perkins last Monday. The consideration was \$15 for each lot. They are in a desirable location for residence lots, but are at present in a very poor condition.

### The Mill Moved.

C. Price has been engaged to move the mill from its old site to a new one near his residence near Glen Allen. He has a good business and conducts an enterprise of which the Twin Cities are proud.

## THE SOCIAL CIRCLE.

### Social Happenings of The Twin Cities.

### Parties, Drives And The Various Amusements.

Miss Vallie Revelle, one of Lutesville's most popular society ladies entertained a very select small party at her home last Thursday evening with a domino party. Some choice vocal and instrumental music was rendered. The party was in honor of Misses Blanche O'Brien, and Flora Porter. Those present were Misses Blanche O'Brien, Flora Porter, Susie Graves and Vallie Revelle, and Messrs. L. T. Kinder, Edward Drum, David Conrad and Tom Bowman.

On Wednesday evening of last week a jolly party of youngsters were royally entertained at the residence of Mrs. Wolf. The young people spent a very pleasant evening in various games and amusements, and departed with a feeling of an evening well spent.

Perhaps the most select affair of the week was a checker and domino party at the residence of John W. Revelle in Lutesville on Wednesday evening. It was a party for the married people, and Mrs. Revelle's reputation as a hostess was gracefully sustained. The evening was a pleasant one.

The vocal club met at Rev. McClintock's Saturday evening was well attended, and a very pleasant evening was spent. Much social and vocal culture is resulting from these parties.

Frank Wilson left Sunday for Cape Girardeau to attend the closing exercises of St. Vincent's young ladies' academy; his sister Miss Annie is a pupil. He will also visit friends at Jackson and Oak Ridge.

Misses Vallie Revelle favored her guest, Miss Blanche O'Brien of Whitewater with a drive and a few pleasant hours at the picnic at Burfordville last Saturday.

Miss May Kinder returned from Farmington on Wednesday of last week. She has been in Elmwood seminary as a pupil the past season.

J. W. Drum returned Thursday from Columbia, where he had been attending the closing exercises of the university.

David Graves of St. Louis attended the wedding of his sister, Miss Elizabeth yesterday.

Mr. Hunter of Montgomery county was visiting the family of D. W. Graves this week.

Miss Dora Axe returned Tuesday from a visit to Mrs. J. A. Slagle at Zalma.

Miss Alice Dominico returned from St. Louis on Wednesday of last week.

J. W. Drum attended the Flite ball at the Cape Friday night.

S. J. McMinn of Zalma, was in town Tuesday, visiting friends.

### They Are Happy.

John Castator of Lutesville and Mrs. Hannah Wood were married at the latter's home on Cane creek, two miles south of Marble Hill last Sunday at 11 o'clock. Justice T. G. Lambert officiated at the ceremony. There were a large number of guests present, among them the parents of the bride and groom, and many friends of the bride and groom.

W. B. Burnett, clerk, in Lutesville grocery store.

## BURNT BY POTASH.

### L. B. James Has Some Experience With a Drug.

Last Friday L. B. James had his hands and clothing badly burned by chlorate of potash. He had bought the drug, which is prepared in small tablets for the purpose of making a wash or medicine for his mouth. About one half it had been used for that purpose, and the rest, wrapped in a paper, he put in his vest pocket. It came in contact with the sulphur on some matches and ignited.

His vest was badly burned. When he discovered the fire he immediately ran his hand into his pocket, and being burned withdrew it and clasped his other hand. The effect was immediately transmitted, and as a result both hands were very badly burned.

A five cent piece in his pocket was almost melted, showing the extreme heat that it was subjected to. He was a witness in the Pierce case, but was excused by Judge Shackelford, because suffering great pain, and went Friday evening to his home at Zalma.

### Patent List.

The following patents were granted to Missouri people last week.

R. Bryant, Adrian, adjustable desk; W. H. Daniels, St. Louis, car axle lubricator; C. Deyherle, Iron Mountain, steam hammer; J. W. Frey, Webb City, game apparatus; F. A. Goodridge, St. Louis, thread cabinet; E. M. Gurnee, Westport, car platform holder; T. J. Hathaway, Montevallo, seed planter; R. W. Johnson, Sikeston, fence post; A. Knicker and J. L. Rinker, Aurora, adjustable automatic can swing; W. A. Ross, Maryville, derrick; C. R. Schilling, St. Louis, wrapping machine.

### A BAND PICNIC.

### Burfordville Blowers Do Themselves Proud.

Special to the Press.

BURFORDVILLE, June 12.—The Burfordville cornet band scored a grand success in their picnic here Saturday. The band has been organized but a short time, yet it plays well, and the people heartily endorsed it Saturday in the picnic it gave. A very large crowd attended, and the day was an enjoyable one. Every amusement was afforded.

At night there was a grand band ball where pleasure reigned supreme. It was all in all, the leading event of the season. Some of the boys were a little noisy but all went peaceably.

### THE OLD SETTLERS.

### They Should Have an Association.

Thomas Rigdon of Glen Allen while talking to the editor a few days ago made the suggestion that this county ought to have an old settler's association. The editor heartily endorses the suggestion and urges it upon the people of the county.

An association could be formed making eligibility to membership dependent upon forty years residence within the present bounds of the county. Or any limit suitable could be arranged. As a matter of fact no financial results could be expected, but a great deal of social pleasure could be derived. An annual gathering of the old people, whose hoary heads and bent forms attest many years of life's battles would be a round of pleasure for them, and a source of pleasure as well to younger people, their children and grandchildren.

"Greatest Goods." So says the sign, that you will see are cut to fit, and Drum sees fit to cut them \$2.50 to \$1.25 per yard.

## DECAPITATED HIM.

### BRAKEMAN HANCOCK INSTANTLY KILLED.

### AT THREE O'CLOCK A. M.

### Horribly Mangled. His Head In The Guard Rail. The Inquest.

Special to the Press.

GLEN ALLEN, June 8.—Killed while doing his duty as a freight brakeman. That was how W. H. Hancock died at Glen Allen at three o'clock last Thursday morning.

"Only a brakeman the editor writes. Only a brakeman in the dead hour of night. He was doing his duty, the train passing through. Down to his death the poor brakeman fell through."

No more his brother trainmen will share his humor and hardships, for he is cold and still in death, a shapeless mass of flesh and bones where once he was a strong man, proud in his physical manhood.

As freight train No. 79, coming south, conductor Beard, engineer Walters, was nearing Glen Allen last Thursday morning about 3 o'clock brakeman W. H. Hancock fell between two cars and was instantly killed. His head was completely severed from his body, the left leg and arm broken in several places and the heel of the right foot cut off. He was about 32 years of age, almost six feet tall and a fine man physically; and, his brother trainmen say, every other way. His home was at DeSoto, although he recently came from Anderson, Ind. He was an unmarried man, and carried an insurance policy of \$700 in the Michigan Accident company, paid up, and made in favor of his brother.

### HOW IT WAS DONE.

Hancock was head brakeman and was sitting with the fireman on his seat in the engine cab. After passing through the tunnel and as the train was approaching the steep down grade the fireman awoke him and told him they were through the tunnel. Hancock took his lantern and went back over the tank for the purpose of setting brakes to hold the train down the grade. He climbed the first car and disappeared, the fireman thinking no more of him.

When the train pulled into Glen Allen he failed to do his duty, and investigation revealed the fact that he was not on the train. Search was at once commenced up the track. At the bridge about half a mile above the town his mangled remains were found. It is supposed he fell between the cars, and about twenty cars passed over him.

He struck the ground near the point of the guard rails in the bridge and was dragged about twenty feet, to where they approach close to the main rail. In this space his head was caught and completely torn from the body. The body was then carried about thirty feet further, where it was dropped, about half way through the bridge.

### THE INQUEST.

The remains were gathered and carried to the depot. Early in the morning Coroner C. M. Winter of Marble Hill was called and at 10 o'clock the inquest was begun. It was decided that he come to his death by falling from a moving train. The verdict was that he died by falling from a moving train. The jury was composed of the Order of Railway Trainmen and had several cards from various Odd Fellows lodges.